abide both before acceptance and after?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of Ministry of Industry. However, the selection of technologies and foreign investment is primarily left to the Indian entrepreneurs/parties, who after exploring the alternative sources of technology and techno-economic analysis select the one that suits them best. Thereafter, they apply for Government's approval and such applications with tie-ups with Chinese firms will be examined on merits in consultation with the authorities concerned, as and when the same are received.

Revision of wages in the Public Sector Enterprises

@@1149. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade unions are restive because of the continuing uncertainty about a negotiated settlement of the long-pending issue of revision of wages and other Working conditions in the Central Public Sector Enterprises viz., Coal India Limited, Steel Authority of India Limited, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and the Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the earlier wage agreements between managements and labour expired over a year; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to initiate to make the managements take a decision to avert *labour unrest?*

@@Previously Unstarred Question 216, transferred from the 4th November, 1988.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) Wage structure and other working conditions are bilaterally decided by the management and the employees in conformity with certain broad policy parameters prescribed by the Government. It is a fact that the earlier wage agreements in many enterprises have expired over a year back. Government have repeatedly stressed the need for early conclusion of all wage agreements.

Kerosene outlets in Orissa

@@@1150. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of kerosene outlets is inadequate in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open some more kerosene outlets in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) As on 1-10-1988 there are 157 SKO-LDO dealerships operating in Orissa;

(b) and (c) The Oil Industry has planned to create 19 more SKO/LDO dealerships in the State. These dealerships are at various stages of processing by the Oil Companies.

Setting up of a paper research institute in Andhra Pradesh

@@@@1151. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 226, transferred from the 4th November, 1988.

@@@@Previously Unstarred Question 393, transferred from the 15th November, 1988.

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish a paper research institute in Andhra Pradesh as the State is a leading paper producer;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the place selected to set up the institute; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Institute known as Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute has already been set up in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. This Institute is designed to serve the needs of the whole country in Research and Development pertaining to pulp and paper industry.

Loss to M/s. Coal India Ltd.

@1152 DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss to M/s. Coal India Ltd. and how do they compare with the performance of coal mining in advanced countries; and

(b) what steps are being taken to put the coal industry on a healthy footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Accumulated losses of Coal India Ltd., as on 1-4-1987 stood at Rs. 2033.72 crores. Accounts for the year 1987-88 are yet to be finalised. Specific data on losses suffered by Coal Industry in other countries is not available. However, it is generally known that some countries like Australia, South Africa, USA and Socialist countries like USSR, Poland and China are internationally competitive producers of coal while some traditional coal producers in West Europe including UK & West Germany are more or less subsidised.

(b) Main reason for losses in Coal India Ltd. is that the increase in administered price does not fully cover the escalation in the cost of various inputs like wages, power, fuel, explosives, capital etc. However, continuous efforts are being made to reduce the losses. Some of the important steps taken in this regard are briefly indicated below:—

(i) Increase in production and productivity, with special emphasis on underground mines.

(ii) Improvement in availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipment.

(iii) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(iv) Economy in the consumption of spares and various other inputs by improving blasting efficiency, power factor and improved inventory control.

(v) Improved monitoring of cost reduction measures.

(vi) Efforts are being made to reduce the total outstanding against major consumers like State Electricity Boards.

@Previously Unstarred Question 328, transferred from the 4th November, 1988.